

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An initiator incorporated in an inflator and adapted to trigger the inflator through propagation of flame from an initiating explosive to a gas generator of the inflator, wherein the initiator comprises a ~~single-closed-bottomed tubular capsule for accommodating the initiating explosive, and the capsule having a tubular side portion and a closed bottom~~ itself of the capsule comprises a plurality of rupture-accelerating means for accelerating rupture~~portion, the tubular side portion comprising at least two grooves that accelerate rupture of the tubular side portion and that propagate the flame in at least two different directions~~ upon ignition of the initiating explosive.

3. (Currently Amended) An initiator ~~incorporated in an inflator and adapted to trigger the inflator through propagation of flame from an initiating explosive to a gas generator of the inflator~~ according to claim 2, wherein the initiator comprises a ~~single-closed-bottomed tubular capsule for accommodating the initiating explosive, and a corner connection portion itself of the tubular capsule, which portion connects at the tubular side portion and at the bottom portion of the capsule, comprises a plurality of rupture-accelerating means for accelerating rupture upon ignition of the initiating explosive, the corner portion having the at least two grooves.~~

4-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 2, wherein the capsule ~~itself comprises guide means~~ a taper portion for guiding detonation force induced from ignition of the initiating explosive toward the ~~rupture-accelerating means~~ at least two grooves.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 2, wherein the ~~rupture-accelerating means is strength-weakening means implemented such that~~ strength of the tubular side portion of the capsule is ~~weakened as compared with~~ less than that of the bottom portion of the capsule.

17. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 16, wherein the ~~strength-weakening means is configured such that~~ a wall thickness of the tubular side portion of the capsule is ~~reduced as compared with~~ smaller than that of the bottom portion of the capsule.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 16, wherein the ~~strength-weakening means is a configuration such that~~ the bottom portion of the capsule convexly protrudes into an interior of the capsule so as to ~~relatively weaken the~~ strength of the tubular side portion.

21. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 20, wherein ~~a fragile part is provided at the tubular portion of the capsule and is~~ the at least two grooves are biased toward the bottom portion of the capsule from a position corresponding to a tip of a convex shape of the bottom portion.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 2, ~~wherein the rupture-accelerating means is~~ further comprising a detonation-force-enhancing means device implemented such that detonation force to be imposed on the tubular side portion of the capsule is greater than that to be imposed on the bottom portion of the capsule.

24. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 23, wherein the detonation-force-enhancing ~~means device~~ means device is implemented such that the amount of an initiating explosive for rupturing the tubular side portion of the capsule is greater than that of an initiating explosive for rupturing the bottom portion of the capsule.

25. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 23, wherein the detonation-force-enhancing ~~means~~device is implemented such that an initiating explosive for rupturing the tubular side portion of the capsule is greater in detonation force than an initiating explosive for rupturing the bottom portion of the capsule.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to claim 3, wherein the capsule ~~itself~~ comprises ~~guide means~~a taper portion for guiding detonation force induced from ignition of the initiating explosive toward the ~~rupture-accelerating means~~at least two grooves.

29. (New) An initiator according to claim 2, wherein the at least two different directions are opposing directions.